

3933 '99 MAY 19 P3:14

JACKIE GERICKE
738 JENNINGS AVE
HOT SPRINGS, SD 57747 ~~1212~~

Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)
Food and Drug Administration
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061
Rockville MD 20852

Subject: Docket #98N-1038 Irradiation in the production, processing
and handling of food.

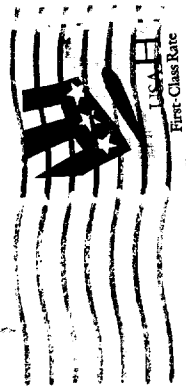
I am writing to request that food products that have been treated with radiation be required to be labeled prominently using the words "irradiation" or "irradiated" and to carry the radura symbol. Do not allow the alternative terms "cold pasteurization" or "electronic pasteurization" as they are misleading and unsatisfactory. The absence of a statement would be misleading because irradiation destroys vitamins and causes changes in sensory and spoilage qualities that are not obvious or expected by the consumer.

I believe that the American people have a right to full disclosure about the food we buy, including place of origin, whether it is organic, whether it contains genetically engineered material, whether it contains antibiotic or growth hormone residue as well as whether it has been treated with radiation. Only with these disclosures are we able to make informed choices when purchasing our food.

Jackie Gericke

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